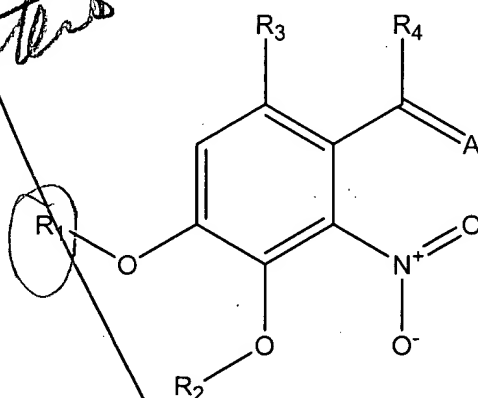


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound of formula I:



where:

R₁ and R₂ are the same or different and signify hydrogen, [optionally substituted] lower alkanoyl, [or] aroyl, [optionally substituted] or lower alkoxycarbonyl, or optionally substituted lower alkyl carbamoyl groups;

R₃ signifies hydrogen, [or optionally substituted] an alkanoyl or an aroyl group;

R₄ signifies [optionally substituted saturated or partially unsaturated lower alkyl or] an aryl group or a saturated or partially unsaturated lower alkyl group optionally substituted with an aryl or heterocycloalkyl group, or R₄ taken together with R₃ signifies [an optionally substituted] a saturated or partially unsaturated carbocyclic ring optionally substituted with one of:
at least one alkyl group.

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cont
A₁*

an alkylidenearyl group optionally further substituted with at least one
hydroxy, alkoxy, dialkylamino, lower alkyl, halogen, or
trifluoromethyl group, or
an alkylheterocycloalkyl group; and

A signifies oxygen [~~or NR₅ group, where R₅ signifies NHR₆ where R₆ signifies~~
~~optionally substituted lower alkyl or aryl group, or OR₇ group where R₇~~
~~signifies hydrogen, lower alkyl or lower alkanoyl, or A signifies an~~
~~optionally substituted alkylidene when R₄ signifies OR₈ group where R₈~~
~~signifies optionally substituted lower alkanoyl or aroyl group,]; and~~
pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 2 (canceled)

A₂

Claim 3 (currently amended): A compound according to claim 1 comprising[~~:-6,7-~~
~~dihydroxy-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2H-naphthalen-1-one; 5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one; 2-~~
~~(3,4-dimethoxy-benzylidene)-6,7-dihydroxy-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2H-naphthalen-1-one;~~
~~(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-phenyl-methanone; 5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one~~
~~oxime; 2-(3,4-Dimethoxy-benzylidene)-5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one; 2-(4-~~
~~dimethylamino-benzylidene)-5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one; 2-(4-dimethylamino-~~
~~benzylidene)-6,7-dihydroxy-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2H-naphthalen-1-one; 5,6-dihydroxy-2-(4-~~
~~hydroxy-3-methoxy-5-nitro-benzylidene)-7-nitro-indan-1-one; 6,7-dihydroxy-2-(4-~~

B1 cont
A2
~~hydroxy-3-methoxy-5-nitro-benzylidene)-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2H-naphthalen-1-one; 2-(3,4-dihydroxy-benzylidene)-5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one; 2-(3,4-dihydroxy-benzylidene)-6,7-dihydroxy-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2H-naphthalen-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-propan-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-4-phenyl-butan-1-one; 2-(3,4-dihydroxy-5-nitro-benzylidene)-5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-pentan-1-one; 2,3-dihydroxy-1-nitro-anthraquinone; butyric acid-6-butyroxy-2-nitro-3-(3-phenyl-propionyl)-phenyl ester; butyric acid-3-benzoyl-6-butyroxy-2-nitro-phenyl ester; carbonic acid-4-benzoyl-2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-phenyl ester ethyl ester; carbonic acid-2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-4-(3-phenyl-propionyl)-phenyl ester ethyl ester; carbonic acid-4,5-dibenzoyl-2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-phenyl ester ethyl ester; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-2-phenyl-ethanone; acetic acid-3-acetoxy-7,7-dimethyl-1-nitro-8-oxo-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalen-2-yl ester; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-morpholin-4-yl-propan-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-piperidin-1-yl-propan-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-pyrrolidin-1-yl-propan-1-one; 5,6-dihydroxy-2-morpholin-4-ylmethyl-7-nitro-indan-1-one; 1-[3-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-oxo-propyl]-piperidene-3-carboxylic acid diethylamide; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-(3-methyl-piperidin-1-yl)-propan-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-(4-methyl-piperidin-1-yl)-propan-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-(octahydro-quinolin-1-yl)-propan-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-(3,5-dimethyl-piperidin-1-yl)-propan-1-one; 3-(4-benzyl-piperidin-1-yl)-1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-propan-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-[4-(4-~~

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cont
A2
~~methoxy-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-(4-propyl-piperazin-1-yl)-propan-1-one; acetic acid 6-acetoxy-2-nitro-3-(3-phenyl-acryloyl)-phenyl ester 1-(3,4-Dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-propenone; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-2-morpholin-4-yl-ethanone; 5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-2-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-indan-1-one; 5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-2-(4-phenyl-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-indan-1-one; acetic acid 6-acetoxy-2-nitro-3-phenylacetyl-phenyl ester; acetic acid 2-acetoxy-4-(1-acetoxy-2-phenyl-vinyl)-3-nitro-phenyl ester; butyric acid 6-butyryloxy-2-nitro-3-phenylacetyl-phenyl ester; carbonic acid 2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-4-phenylacetyl-phenyl ester ethyl ester; acetic acid 6-acetoxy-2-nitro-3-(4-phenyl-butyryl)-phenyl ester; butyric acid 6-butyryloxy-2-nitro-3-(4-phenyl-butyryl)-phenyl ester or carbonic acid 2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-4-(4-phenyl-butyryl)-phenyl ester ethyl ester] 6,7-dihydroxy-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2H-naphthalen-1-one.~~

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (original): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

A3
Claims 6 (currently amended): [The use of a compound according to claim 1 in

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cont
A3
~~the manufacture of] A method of manufacturing a medication for treating a subject~~
afflicted by central or peripheral nervous system disorders comprising combining a
therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 with a
pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~[The use of a compound according to claim 1 in~~
~~the manufacture of] A method of manufacturing a medication for treating mood~~
disorders, Parkinson's disease and parkinsonian disorders, gastrointestinal
disturbances, edema formation states and hypertension comprising combining a
therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 with a
pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 8 (canceled)

A4
Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~[The use of a compound according to claim 1 in~~
~~the manufacture of] A method of manufacturing a medicament for use as a COMT~~
inhibitor comprising combining a therapeutically effective amount of a compound
according to claim 1 with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

A5
Claim 10 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 5,6-dihydroxy-7-
nitro-indan-1-one.

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cont

Claim 11 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(3,4-dimethoxy-benzylidene)-6,7-dihydroxy-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-naphthalen-1-one.

Claim 12 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising (3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-phenyl-methanone.

AS

Claim 13 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(3,4-dimethoxy-benzylidene)-5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one.

Claim 14 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(4-dimethylamino-benzylidene)-5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one.

Claim 15 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(4-dimethylamino-benzylidene)-6,7-dihydroxy-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-naphthalen-1-one.

Claim 16 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 5,6-dihydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxy-5-nitro-benzylidene)-7-nitro-indan-1-one.

Claim 17 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 6,7-dihydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxy-5-nitro-benzylidene)-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2*H*-naphthalen-1-one.

B1 cont
~~Claim 18 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(3,4-dihydroxy-benzylidene)-5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one.~~

~~Claim 19 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(3,4-dihydroxy-benzylidene)-6,7-dihydroxy-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2H-naphthalen-1-one.~~

AS
~~Claim 20 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-propan-1-one.~~

~~Claim 21 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-4-phenyl-butan-1-one.~~

~~Claim 22 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(3,4-dihydroxy-5-nitro-benzylidene)-5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one.~~

~~Claim 23 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-pentan-1-one.~~

~~Claim 24 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2,3-dihydroxy-1-nitro-anthraquinone.~~

B1 cont
Claim 25 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising butyric acid 6-butyroxy-2-nitro-3-(3-phenyl-propionyl)-phenyl ester.

Claim 26 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising butyric acid 3-benzoyl-6-butyroxy-2-nitro-phenyl ester.

AS
Claim 27 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising carbonic acid 4-benzoyl-2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-phenyl ester ethyl ester.

Claim 28 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising carbonic acid 2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-4-(3-phenyl-propionyl)-phenyl ester ethyl ester.

Claim 29 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising carbonic acid 4,5-dibenzoyl-2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-phenyl ester ethyl ester.

Claim 30 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-2-phenyl-ethanone.

Claim 31 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising acetic acid 3-acetoxy-7,7-dimethyl-1-nitro-8-oxo-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-napthalen-2-yl ester.

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cont
Claim 32 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-morpholin-4-yl-propan-1-one.

Claim 33 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-piperidin-1-yl-propan-1-one.

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Claim 34 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-pyrrolidin-1-yl-propan-1-one.

Claim 35 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 5,6-dihydroxy-2-morpholin-4-ylmethyl-7-nitro-indan-1-one.

Claim 36 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 5,6 dihydroxy-7-nitro-2-piperidin-1-ylmethyl-indan-1-one.

Claim 37 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-[3-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-oxo-propyl]-piperidene-3-carboxylic acid diethylamide.

Claim 38 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-(3-methyl-piperidin-1-yl)-propan-1-one.

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cont
Claim 39 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-(4-methyl-piperidin-1-yl)-propan-1-one.

Claim 40 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-(octahydro-quinolin-1-yl)-propan-1-one.

Claim 41 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-(3,5-dimethyl-piperidin-1-yl)-propan-1-one.

AS
Claim 42 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 3-(4-benzyl-piperidin-1-yl)-1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-propan-1-one.

Claim 43 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-[4-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-1-one.

Claim 44 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-1-one.

Claim 45 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-(4-propyl-piperazin-1-yl)-propan-1-one.

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cont

Claim 46 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising acetic acid 6-acetoxy-2-nitro-3-(3-phenyl-acryloyl)-phenyl ester.

Claim 47 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-propenone.

AS

Claim 48 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-2-morpholin-4-yl-ethanone.

Claim 49 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-2-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-indan-1-one.

Claim 50 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-2-(4-phenyl-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-indan-1-one.

Claim 51 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising acetic acid 6-acetoxy-2-nitro-3-phenylacetyl-phenyl ester.

Claim 52 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising acetic acid 2-acetoxy-4-(1-acetoxy-2-phenyl-vinyl)-3-nitro-phenyl ester.

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cont
~~Claim 53 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising butyric acid 6-butiryloxy-2-nitro-3-phenylacetyl-phenyl ester.~~

~~Claim 54 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising carbonic acid 2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-4-phenylacetyl-phenyl ester ethyl ester.~~

AS
~~Claim 55 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising acetic acid 6-acetoxy-2-nitro-3-(4-phenyl-butyryl)-phenyl ester.~~

~~Claim 56 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising butyric acid 6-butiryloxy-2-nitro-3-(4-phenyl-butyryl)-phenyl ester.~~

~~Claim 57 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising carbonic acid 2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-4-(4-phenyl-butyryl)-phenyl ester ethyl ester.~~
